

## MOUSUMI'S wait for 'Noya Manush' comes to an end

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Mousumi Hamid is all set to make her return to the silver screen with *Noya Manush*, directed by Sohel Rana Boyati. This new film, marking her comeback after a long hiatus, has recently received clearance from the Film Certification Board.

In a recent interview with The Daily Star, Mousumi shared her excitement, stating, "I'm eagerly awaiting the release of this new film. It feels wonderful to have a new project of mine hitting cinemas again after so long. Audiences will get to see a new side of myself in *Noya Manush*."

She continued, "We went through a lot of hard work to bring *Noya Manush* to life—not just me but the whole team. Filming in the *char* area was especially challenging, and we had to immerse ourselves in the lives and culture of the locals. It was an experience that demanded dedication from everyone involved."

Reflecting on the project, she added, "We had to travel to the *char* area multiple times for filming. The role itself was quite demanding, adding yet another defining moment to my career."

"I had the opportunity to observe their lives (*Char* community) closely. They're wonderful people. During the shoot, they embraced us warmly, and their kindness will stay with me for a long time," the actress recalled.

She also praised her co-star, saying, "Rawnak Hasan *bhai* delivered an exceptional performance. Our director has put his heart into this film, and as a debutante, his dream has come to life through *Noya Manush*."

Addressing her fans, she added, "To be honest, the true heart of any film is its audience. As an artiste, I am already endlessly grateful to them for all the support they have given me. I urge everyone to watch the film in theatres when it's released." The film is expected to be released next month.

At the moment, Mousumi is also busy filming a new television series. "Next month, I'll begin shooting for another new series," she shared, giving a glimpse into her busy schedule.

She also completed shooting for a new musical project, set in the scenic locations of Bandarban and Cox's Bazar and directed by Tasnova Tabassum Atoshi. While the film's title is yet to be finalised, the actress shared her thoughts on the experience, saying, "We were completely immersed in nature while filming. The storyline is wonderful as well."

In addition to cinema, the actress has been actively working on OTT platforms, with several of her performances receiving a warm reception from audiences. She hinted at more OTT projects on the horizon, adding, "There's a good chance I'll be working on something new for OTT soon. I'm hopeful it will turn out to be something special."

Wrapping up the conversation, Mousumi shared her unwavering dedication to acting, saying, "I dream of creating work that audiences will remember forever. I've been fortunate to receive so much love, and I hope to hold onto that always."



PHOTO: SHAHREAR KABIR HEEMEL



## 'Mirzapur' film announced, fan-favourite characters to return

The hit Amazon Prime Video series *Mirzapur* is expanding into a movie, thrilling fans, especially with the return of the beloved character Munna *bhaiya*, portrayed by Divyendu.

Last Monday, the series' creators announced plans for a *Mirzapur* movie, promising a fresh storyline that brings back iconic characters like Kaleen *bhaiya* (Pankaj Tripathi), Guddu Pandit (Ali Fazal), and Munna Tripathi.

Created by Puneet Krishna and directed by Gurmmeet Singh, the series will be adapted into a standalone film, slated for release in 2026.

Eight weeks after its theatrical release, the film will stream on Amazon Prime in India and over 240 regions.

Produced by Excel Entertainment, the series premiered in November 2018, followed by a second season in October 2020 and a third in July 2024.



## Mehazabien starrer 'Kajal' now streaming on Amazon Prime

Mehazabien Chowdhury starrer drama *Kajal* has joined Amazon Prime's Bangladeshi lineup, premiering on October 28 with English subtitles for international viewers.

Directed by Mohammad Mostafa Kamal Raz, the story centres on the poignant relationship between a father and daughter, featuring veteran actor Tariq Anam Khan in a key role.

The drama includes the song *Mamoni*, written by Jony Haque and performed by Pallabi Roy and Payel Tripathy.

Originally released on February 13, 2022, on Cinemawala's YouTube channel, *Kajal* adds to the growing list of Bangladeshi projects on Amazon Prime, which includes notable titles like *Rickshaw Girl* and *Made in Bangladesh*.



## Shilpakala Academy announces week-long Jatra festival

Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy is all set to launch a seven-day Jatra Festival, celebrating the enduring tradition of *Jatra Pala*, a folk theatre form deeply rooted in Bengal's cultural heritage. Recognised as a powerful medium of reflection on rural life and social realities, Jatra remains beloved for its unique blend of entertainment and societal introspection.

In the spirit of post-July Revolution rejuvenation, Shilpakala Academy seeks to reinvigorate cultural expressions across all social layers. With the theme "In fear, we falter; in defiance, we are Bangladesh," the festival will run from November 1 to November 7 at Mukto Moncho in Suhrawardy Udyan in the capital.

Each evening from 6pm to 9pm, seven registered Jatra troupes from around the country will present a variety of plays focused on historical themes and socially relevant topics, showcasing the depth and vibrancy of this art form.

The festival's opening ceremony on November 1 will feature key figures in the cultural community, including Israfil Mazumdar, a leader from the 1969 mass uprising, esteemed Jatra artiste Anima Dey, Shilpakala Academy Director General Dr Syed Jamil Ahmed, and Theater and Film Department Director Faiz Zahir.

The festival will open with the play *Nihoto Golap* by Surubhi Opera, written by Agontuk and directed by Kabir Khan.

On November 2, New Shamim Natya Sangstha will present *Anarkali*, penned by Prasad Krishna Bhattacharya and directed by Shamim Khandakar.

November 3 will feature *Meghe Dhaka Tara*, performed by Bongo Bani Opera. Nor-Narayan Opera will perform *Lalon Fakir* on November 4. Bondhu Opera will showcase *Apon Dulaal* on November 5. *Phoolan Devi* by Sharmin Opera is set to take November 6 while the last date has been provided to Jatrabandhu Opera to perform *Nawab Siraj-ud-Doula*.

## OTT platforms prepare for a spooky Halloween night



RAKSHANDA RAHMAN MISHA

Halloween is upon us, and we've lined up some spine-tingling releases to make your October 31 even more haunting. From two chilling Bangladeshi OTT originals to a lineup of global horror projects that promise to keep you up all night, here's what's in store:

**'Adhunik Bangla Hotel' (Chorki)**

Following the success of *Pett Kata Shaw*, *Adhunik Bangla Hotel* on Chorki is set to deliver another chilling experience. Mosharraf Karim takes on three eerie personas across this anthology series, where local delicacies carry sinister twists.

The first episode, *Boal Macher Jhol* (Boal fish curry), debuts at midnight on October 31, with subsequent episodes *Khashir Paya* (goat trotters) and *Hasher Salun* (duck curry) releasing over the following two weeks, each one peeling back layers of dark secrets.

**'Bibhabori' (Deepto Play)**



Deepto Play's highly anticipated horror project *Bibhabori* dives into supernatural suspense, inspired by Anish Das Apu's *Moddhorater Khabar*. The story follows Neetu, a young student from a low-income family, as she navigates eerie happenings and takes on a babysitting job during a lunar eclipse—a night rumoured to summon hungry spirits. Her rare "golden blood" attracts attention from something sinister, setting the stage for a terrifying ordeal.

Streaming begins on Deepto Play this Halloween, October 31.

**'Nikosh Chhaya' (Hoichoi)**

The second instalment of Hoichoi's *Bhaduri Moshas* series, *Nikosh Chhaya*, directed by Parambrata Chattopadhyay, follows occult expert Niren Bhaduri (Chiranjeet Chakraborty) as he confronts a dark tantric who commands the demon Genu. This season escalates into brutal supernatural battles



and terrifying rituals, plunging viewers deep into the shadows.

Releasing on October 31, *Nikosh Chhaya* is packed with bone-chilling visuals and intensity.

**'Don't Come Home' (Netflix)**

Netflix's Thai horror series *Don't Come Home* tells the story of Varee (Woranuch Bhirombhakdi) and her daughter Min as they encounter unexplainable horrors in the haunted Jarukanant mansion. When Min vanishes without a trace, pregnant police officer Fah (Pitchapa Phanthumchinda) begins investigating, only to uncover a web of terrifying secrets within the mansion's walls.

Premiering October 31, *Don't Come Home* is a must-watch for fans of atmospheric horror.

You can thus prepare for a Halloween filled with scares and supernatural suspense, streaming across diverse platforms to stay engrossed through the night.

